

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are pending. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-40 remain rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Godfrey, U.S. Patent 6,363,479 B1. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants previously asserted that Godfrey fails to teach or suggest a signing interface adapted to be invoked by a Web application transmitted to the browser from a remote location. Specifically, Applicants disagreed with the Examiner's assertion that unit 106 of Godfrey transmits a web application to unit 104.

In response to Applicants' arguments, the Examiner maintains his position that Godfrey depicts an application web server 106, which transmits the application to the client 104 running the browser. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Examiner has failed to point out where Godfrey discloses that an application is sent to client 104. The fact is that Godfrey discloses no such feature.

Fig. 1 of Godfrey shows a communication system 100 which has a digital signature apparatus 102. The communication system includes a first unit 104 and a second unit 106. Godfrey describes the first unit 104 as a software application or a web browser on a network computer node (col. 4, lines 22-25). The second unit is described in exactly the same way. Each of the first and second units are associated with independent proxies 108 and 110, respectively (col. 4, lines 30-33). Godfrey refers to data transfer that takes place between unit 104 and unit 106 at col. 4, lines 25-36, but this is not the same as transferring a Web application from unit 106 to unit 104 as asserted by the Examiner. Godfrey again discloses that "form data" is exchanged between units 104 and 106 but this is also the same as transferring a Web application (col. 5, lines 4-7).

As asserted previously, it would be unnecessary for unit 106 to transmit a Web application to unit 104 because Godfrey discloses that the protocol proxies 108 and 110, which are independent of units 104 and 106, facilitate a type of universal interface so that the units may be

used with any suitable web browser which either contains digital signature capability or other application which fails to include such capability (col. 4, lines 42-46). Therefore, since units 108 and 110 essentially house an application which would invoke a signing interface, there would be no reason to transmit such an application from unit 106 to unit 104. To do so would be redundant.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants request that the Examiner specifically point out where Godfrey teaches transmitting a Web application from unit 106 to unit 104 or withdraw this rejection.

Independent claim 21 also recites “a signing interface, the signing interface adapted to be invoked by a Web application transmitted to the browser from a remote location.” Thus, claim 21 is allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-20 and 22-40 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 41-45 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Godfrey in view of Gibbs (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,321). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 41 recites a signing interface adapted to facilitate access to system services provided via a four-corner model comprising a root entity, a first participant, a second participant, the first customer and the second customer. Applicants submit that Godfrey and Gibbs fail to teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, a four-corner model which comprises a root entity, a first participant, a second participant, a first customer and a second customer.

The Examiner asserts that unit 116 meets the claim limitation “the signing interface being adopted to facilitate access to system services provided via a four-corner model.” The Examiner then asserts that units 104 and 106 correspond to the claimed first and second participants. The Examiner fails to, however, assert which elements of Godfrey correspond to the first and second participants.

Element 116 of Godfrey is a digital signature initiation data detector. The digital signature initiation data detector 116 “detects the embedded digital signature initiation data generated by data generator 114” (col. 4, lines 55-58). Applicants fail to see how this corresponds to either a four-corner model or any of the elements of the four-corner model, such as the root entity, the first and second participants or the first and second customers. Simply put, Godfrey fails to disclose a four-corner model. Likewise, Gibbs also fails to disclose a four-corner model. Thus, even if combined, the combination would fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 41.

Claim 45 essentially recites the above-discussed features from claim 41, which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art, either alone or in combination.

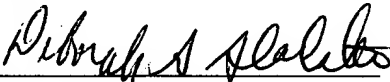
The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 388022001900.

Dated: August 29, 2005

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